



**Our Why:** We believe every learner can change the world; therefore, we will provide a world class education.

**Our Values:** Northern Cass will commit to purposefully build trust, develop authentic relationships, and engage in innovative practices which will empower learners to be choice ready.

**Our Collective Commitment:** We are dedicated and passionate about teaching and learning, self-reflection, acknowledging greatness, and service to the Northern Cass community. We are driven towards continuous improvement.

Families,

Please read for updates related to Northern Cass:

1. **Northern Cass Inquiry Form:** As Northern Cass continues to expand opportunities for communication, please consider utilizing the Inquiry Form (under the Quick Links on website) for questions/concerns you have about the district. Please click on the [Inquiry Form](#).
2. **Attendance Clarification:** Northern Cass is allowed to engage in virtual learning via board policy and state law. We utilize this for weather or circumstances outside of our control. We are not allowed to engage families in virtual learning outside of these situations. When a family chooses to keep their child home, whether they are sick or on a family trip (and we are in session), they are counted as an 'excused' absent. This counts towards the 10 days allowed per semester in our policy. Even if they complete work at home, they are still marked excused **Note:** An excused absence is one where the school is notified of the absence by a guardian. An unexcused absence is defined as any absence that is not caused by illness, injury, family emergency, or an absence granted in advance by administration. Examples of unexcused absences include, but are not limited to oversleeping, truancy, and skip day. An unexcused absence needs to be made up after school.
3. **Developmental Screening February 28:** Early Intervention is designed to identify children at risk in the earliest stages of life when the appropriate help can make all the difference. Northern Cass is offering free developmental screening with Encompass Family Support Services on February 28. Families with children ages birth to three are invited to participate. A free meal will be served that night, and the entire family is welcome to join. Sign up for times between 4:00 and 7:00PM. <https://tinyurl.com/4ysweyza>
4. **Congratulations to Northern Cass Learners:**
  - a. **MaKenna B** placed 3rd in her division at State Wrestling. MaKenna made the record book as the first Northern Cass Wrestler to earn a state placement!
  - b. **Isaac J** enlisted in the ND Air Guard "Happy Hooligans" last week. He will complete basic training and attend extensive schooling for his position. Upon completion, he will be attending Concordia College to study Sports Medicine.
  - c. **Ben K** was selected to the 2023 North Dakota Academic All-State Silver Team. Student selection is based on grade-point averages, ACT or SAT scores, extracurricular activities, community involvement, and leadership qualities.
5. **Mary Poppins Jr. Tickets** are \$15 each. Reserved seating is available and recommended. There will be limited walk-up sales the night of the show, but seats are not guaranteed. Shows will be at 7:00pm on March 23, 24, and 25 and at 4:00pm on March 25. When ordering online, be sure you get a confirmation email to guarantee your seats. [Musical Tickets](#)
6. **Harbor Freight Grant:** Northern Cass has been awarded \$5000 for tools/supplies from Harbor Freights for use by our learners and potential community collaboration.
7. **Family Engagement Incentive Grant:** We are pleased to announce Northern Cass has been awarded an NDDPI Family Engagement grant to support programming this spring including a Creative Writing Community Night, Community Book Study, and Secondary Field Trip to Fargo Public Library.
8. **Artist in Residence Grant:** Northern Cass has been awarded an Artist Residency Grant. Eric Johnson, an adjunct instructor of art at MSCTC, will be at Northern Cass for four Fridays in March instructing secondary art learners in a printmaking workshop. Each learner will design, prepare, and create an original print. The process and product will be

shared with the community in a local display and online. This grant is made possible by the North Dakota Council on the Arts.

9. **Dental Screening:** We are excited to announce that on March 23-24, Northern Cass and ND Health & Human Services - Oral Health Program will conduct a free oral health screening for learners in PK through Level 3. The screening will take place at Northern Cass, learners will be sent home with a toothbrush kit and information about the screening. As a full-service community school, we focus on helping overcome potential barriers to learning, including wellness. If you have any questions, email [amber.lockhart@northerncassschool.com](mailto:amber.lockhart@northerncassschool.com).
10. **College Readiness Resources:** [Resources](#)
11. **Parent Portal:** We have added a [Jaguar Parent Portal](#) under Parents on the school website. This page is full of resources and information for parents and caregivers. Take a look!
12. **Portrait of a Graduate Podcasts:** Listen to some of our educators and graduated learners talk about their experience and growth as educators through personalized learning.
  - a. ["Introduction to Teaching" at Northern Cass](#) - Listen to seniors talk about how Northern Cass's Intro to Teaching course has prepared them for future success.
  - b. [Rethinking Teaching at Northern Cass](#) - Hear from three NC educators who are rethinking their teaching practice through personalized learning, real-world connections, and relevance.
13. **Early Learning Experiences:** Take a look at some learning taking place in our early grade levels.
  - a. PreK tracks their brain growth: [Brain Growth](#)
  - b. Kindergarten takes ownership of and celebrates their learning: [Celebrate!](#)
  - c. Level 2 works on setting goals, reflecting on learning, and A CALL to Greatness: [A CALL](#)
14. **STEAM Camp** will be held June 6-8 for learners entering grades 1-8 in the fall of 2023. Each camp day has a theme (Nature, Engineering, Ocean), and campers can choose to attend 1, 2, or all 3 days. See registration link for details. [STEAM Camp Registration](#)
15. **Maintenance Request Online Form:** Now available on our website under Quick Links, we have an online maintenance request form to help educators and learners report maintenance needs on the school property - i.e., broken furniture, floor damage, burnt out lights, etc. [Maintenance Request](#)
16. **The Jaguar Wellness Pantry and Lunch Repack is Open!** If your child or family is in need - contact us at [pantry@northerncassschool.com](mailto:pantry@northerncassschool.com).
17. **Parent Course: How to Develop Self Compassion:** [Free Course Link](#)
18. **ParentGuidance.org:** As a reminder, Northern Cass has partnered with the Cook Center for Human Connection and [ParentGuidance.org](#). Our families have access to FREE mental health resources including 5+0 on-demand courses on how to support your child's mental health or your own. To register for a coach or take advantage of the free courses, go to ParentGuidance.org, select "Get started free" to create a login and password, and then select "Parent Coaching" and "Register for Coaching."
19. **Parent Guidance:** This is a link to the new YouTube channel where you will find mental health experts featured in Parent Guidance Playbooks sharing how parents can use the animations as conversation starters with teens. Two new Parent Guidance Playbooks are released each week. [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_gaCf4JlCk72lPylygKC8Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_gaCf4JlCk72lPylygKC8Q)
  - a. YouTube channel link to ["My Life Is Worth Living"](#), available at no cost 24 hours a day.
  - b. This is a link to [printable extension lessons](#) for "My Life Is Worth Living"
20. **February Mental Health Newsletter:** This month we encourage you to focus on you, the love you have for yourself as well as the love you have for your children. Take some time to review the [February Mental Health Newsletter](#) which encourages you to focus on the compassion you have for others, the importance of showing compassion to your child and ways to practice compassionate parenting. [ParentGuidance.org](#) offers a course titled ["How to Develop Self-Compassion"](#) that we encourage you to check out.

Accept that change is inevitable, unavoidable, unstoppable, and most unpredictable- embrace it. (Daily Coach)

Dr. Cory J. Steiner, Superintendent for Northern Cass School District